

5. Water Meter Installation

This project would require 2-5 workers. Workers would be paid Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wages. The jobs would not be unionized as there are no union contractors in the area. However all contractors will be paying their employees Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wages (as previously stated).

No Water Meters are currently being utilized in the city of Ely's water distribution system therefore it is a high priority to bring Ely's water distribution system up to modern standards. Included with the installation of the meters to the existing services, all water service lines would also be replaced with up to date water service lines.

The system –wide water meter installation project would provide the city and its residents with an accurate record of water use and result in better water conservation (less waste) as well as provide the City of Ely with a means to charge for water use or for water use that exceeds the normal usage of an average household / business. In addition to water conservation benefits water meters can also be useful in detecting/identifying water leaks within the system. The improved leak detection possibilities that would come with this project will allow the City's maintenance to be more proactive in repairing lines as well as assisting in future planning and budgeting. Currently the City's maintenance crew averages over 20 service line repairs a year. These repairs usually include installing meters and completely replacing the older deteriorating lines. This number of repairs and the cost associated with these repairs will drop significantly with the completion of this system wide improvement. Reducing the portion of the City's budget dedicated to these repairs will allow for other necessary repairs and improvements to the system to be addressed within the budget.

The City of Ely and the residents of this area would benefit from new improved service lines. They would have less 'pauses' in water service due to repair work, improved pressure in their water system as a whole and less damage to sidewalks, streets and property that occurs when a water line leaks underneath them. Not only is water lost but overall pressure in the system suffers, affecting residents directly. The water well pumps are also affected. They need to pump for longer periods, wearing on the pumps and costing the city more in maintenance and operating expense. The financial savings to the City of Ely and its residents is two-fold. The overall cost to maintaining the system would be reduced, funds and time normally budgeted to 'patch-work repairs on these service lines could be spent elsewhere on improving other City infrastructure.

In addition to the service performance and financial benefits that would be the result of new water service lines with the new meters there are also health benefits as well. Old water lines were not held to the same standards that are presently in place. While Ely's water is regularly tested and the water passes all tests, old deteriorating water service lines that were installed well before 1986 could still pose a health risk as time passes on. Replacing them now only increases the safety for all customers serviced by Ely's water system.

Estimated costs: \$27,423,200.00